

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 DEAE-00 SNM-02
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-----065054 251308Z /44

O 251201Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4486
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMCONGEN SYDNEY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 16225

USIA FOR IEA, IOP/M, IBS, IPS, IOR/RIM, IOP/G-THURBER
STATE FOR VANCE, S/PRS, PA, EA
DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL AND MR. SCHECTER

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESS RELEASE ON CHRISTOPHER DEPARTURE NEWS CONFERENCE

U.S. DEPLORES THAI-CAMBODIA BORDER CLASHES; SETS NO

PRECONDITIONS ON ECONOMIC AID TO THAILAND, CHRISTOPHER SAYS.

1. THE UNITED STATES DEPLORES THE RECENT BORDER FIGHTING BETWEEN
THAILAND AND CAMBODIA AND HOPES BOTH COUNTRIES WILL MEET SOON TO
PREVENT FUTURE CLASHES, WARREN M. CHRISTOPHER, U.S. DEPUTY
SECRETARY OF STATE SAID TODAY.

2. CHRISTOPHER, IN A DON MUANG AIRPORT NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE
DRAIVIXIEN HAD BRIEFED HIM ON BORDER DEVELOPMENTS DURING A
MEETING AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE MONDAY MORNING. "I TOLD HIM THAT
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WE DEPLORE THOSE CLASHES AND VERY MUCH REGRETTED THE LOSS OF
LIFE INVOLVED," THE U.S. OFFICIAL SAID.

3. ASKED ABOUT THE MANILA PACT IN RELATION TO THE BORDER INCIDENTS,
CHRISTOPHER TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE SITUATION HAS NOT RISEN TO THE
LEVEL "IN WHICH WE WOULD BE ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE BY THE GOVERN-
MENT OF THAILAND, AND I WOULD SAY THAT, WERE WE ASKED FOR ASSIS-

TANCE, WE WOULD CONSIDER IT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MANILA PACT WHICH REQUIRES THAT WE GIVE EARNEST CONSIDERATION TO SUCH REQUESTS." ANY REQUESTS WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.S. CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES, HE SAID.

4. CHRISTOPHER SAID THAT IN HIS MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER THANIN, NARCOTICS, HUMAN RIGHTS, ASEAN AND GENERAL BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BANGKOK WERE DISCUSSED. HE ALSO MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER UPADIT PAJARIYANGKUL.

5. ASKED WHETHER HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND WERE BEING LINKED TO U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, CHRISTOPHER SAID THERE IS NEITHER ANY LINKAGE NOR U.S. PRECONDITIONS AT THIS TIME ON FUTURE AID.

6. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE TOLD MR. THANIN THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS CONCEPT HAS THREE BROAD AREAS: PERSONAL SECURITY INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM TORTURE AND OTHER KINDS OF UNJUSTIFIED PUNISHMENT, ECONOMIC WELL BEING IN WHICH THE HOUSING, HEALTH AND FOOD NEEDS OF PEOPLE ARE MET, AND POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RIGHTS. THIS LAST INCLUDES GIVING PEOPLE "AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FULL PARTICIPATION IN THEIR SOCIETY," CHRISTOPHER SAID.

7. DISCUSSING THAI-U.S. RELATIONS, CHRISTOPHER SAID THAT OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS, MUCH OF BANGKOK-WASHINGTON CONTACTS WERE BASED ON A MILITARY PRESENCE. "NOW, I AM HAPPY TO SAY, WE ARE BASING OUR RELATIONSHIPS ON SHARED MUTUAL INTERESTS... MY OWN
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FEELING IS THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WILL BE DIFFERENT, BUT THAT IT WILL BE BETTER," HE TOLD NEWSMEN.

8. ON OTHER TOPICS, CHRISTOPHER, THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, TOLD REPORTERS:

-- THAILAND'S "GENEROSITY IN RECEIVING REFUGEES" FROM INDOCHINA "DESERVES THE APPROBATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND OUR APPRECIATION AS WELL." THE U.S. PLANS TO TAKE ANOTHER 15,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN ADDITION TO THE 150,000 IT HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED.

-- THE RECENTLY-SIGNED COMMUNIQUE BETWEEN LAOS AND VIETNAM CERTAINLY "INDICATES A CLOSENESS OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES," BUT WITHOUT HAVING SEEN THE COMMUNIQUE TEXT, CHRISTOPHER DECLINED FURTHER COMMENT.

--WASHINGTON WELCOMES "TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS" BEGINNING BETWEEN THAILAND, LAOS AND VIETNAM.

--THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO ASSIST GOVERNMENTS "ON A COLLECTIVE BASIS AND WHERE THEY ASK US" IN CONTROLLING NARCOTICS

TRAFFICKING AND WITH SUBSTITUTE CROPS. IN OPIUM GROWING AREAS UNREACHABLE BY NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION FORCES, THE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON INTERDICTING THE TRANSPORT OF NARCOTICS, CHRISTOPHER TOLD A QUESTIONER. HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED AT PRIME MINISTER THANIN'S REPORT THAT "THE THAI GOVERNMENT IS APPROACHING NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION IN A SYSTEMATIC AND DETERMINED WAY.

9. CHRISTOPHER, ACCOMPANIED BY ROBERT B. OAKLEY, U.S. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS AND TWO OTHER OFFICIALS, LEFT BANGKOK FOR AUSTRALIA AND THEN NEW ZEALAND WHERE THEY WILL ATTEND THE 26TH MEETING OF THE ANZUS COUNCIL IN WELLINGTON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY.
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SETS NO -----
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